

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday August 29th 2004

Limerick Radio Club

The Limerick Radio Club took part last weekend in the International Lighthouse weekend from the Tarbert Lighthouse in County Kerry. The callsign was EI4TLH.

It was a lighthearted affair with everyone enjoying themselves. Three stations were put on the air, Brendan EI0CZ operated CW using a TS850 and an R7 vertical, Mike EI9FEB operated PSK31 and some SSTV using an FT101ZD and his aerials were a homebrew vertical mounted on the top of the lighthouse, the other was an NVIS antenna just 10 feet above the deck. Mixed results were obtained. The final station was the clubs IC756 Pro, running into a 42m top homebrew Windom fed into a Linear Amp Supertuner. This station mainly operated on SSB on the lower bands.

There were plenty of visitors to the station including a detachment from the Reserve Defence Forces in Limerick.

Over the weekend many members of LRC put in an appearance and had a go at operating. The results were a mixed bag with conditions very strange, best DX was the far east, JA ,9V ,YB. A rough guess would indicated approx 1000 QSO's over the weekend. The weather conditions on the Saturday night were very bad with gale force winds and heavy rain. Paul EI6FE would like to thank all those that made the weekend so enjoyable especially to John EI6IW who made the whole event possible.

Spring 2 Metre Counties Contest Results

Participation was down somewhat in the counties contest held last Easter Monday and eleven logs were submitted. Three sections had only one entry each and they were the high power portable where a newcomer to the contest, Declan Horan EI9FVB, operating from a rare County Kerry made 22 QSOs into 9 different counties. In the high power fixed section, EI7IW in County Louth, operated by Thos EI2JD made 42 QSOs into 14 counties while Tom EI7HT once again was the low power fixed winner from Dublin with 31 QSOs into 10 counties. The 'FM Only' section was the most popular with five logs submitted. The winner was Kyle EI2JO who operating from County Wicklow worked 43 QSOs into 19 counties.

In second place was EI2SBC, operated by Pat EI9HX, followed by Joe EI3IX, Peter EI4HX and Tony EI5DL. The Low Power Portable section was the most competitive with three excellent scores submitted. The winner was Joe EI7GY operating from

County Laois and he managed 50 QSOs into 19 counties. The runner-up spot was filled by the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group, EI2WRC with 61 QSOs and 14 counties from White Mountain in County Wexford. The Tipperary Group EI7T were in third spot with 43 QSOs in 19 counties from County Limerick. Detailed results are in the current issue of Echo Ireland which should be with members early in the coming week. Unfortunately, the incorrect results are listed for the Low Power Portable Section. The results listed are actually from last years contest. Apologies to the three stations involved, EI7GY, EI2WRC and EI7T.

Mayo Radio Experimenter Network

The Mayo radio Experimenters rally will be held in the Belmont Hotel, Knock on Sunday November the 21st. Doors open at 11.30 a.m. Most of the usual large number of national and local traders have confirmed their attendance again this year. The rally will feature exhibitions and demonstrations and the usual large and varied Bring & Buy section.

New Repeater, EI3DRG

The Duhallow Repeater Group have recently installed a UHF repeater on the Boggeragh Mountains near the town of Millstreet, Co. Cork.

The callsign of the repeater is EI3DRG and is approximately 400 metres above sea level. The output freq is 430.925 MHz with the input on 438.525 MHz (+7.6 MHz offset) and a CTCSS tone of 103.5 Hz is required. The output power is 10 watts into a vertical collinear antenna.

AREN

Members of the AREN group deployed on Saturday and Sunday August 21st and 22nd last during the annual Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. Two Lighthouses were activated at Ballinacourty near Dungarvan and at Cromwell Point in Kerry. Various antennas, pieces of equipment and operating techniques were employed in order to test and develop the skills of the members in setting up and operating effective portable stations from remote locations.

DX antennas and operating techniques ensured that a large number of contacts were logged with lighthouse chasers and with other active lighthouses.

NVIS antennas mounted at 2m above ground level were used in order to research the effectiveness of this technique for internal EI working during times of emergency. John, EI9ESB controlled a net on Saturday and Sunday morning, which was joined by Irish, and English stations and a report on the experiment will be available to participating stations, AREN members and interested parties.

Members of the AREN coordinating panel will attend the Cork Rally on Sunday September the 19th next. They will be available to meet with members and those interested in obtaining information on Voluntary Emergency Communications and can be contacted both at the IRTS stand and on 144.525 MHz.

SSB Field Day

SSB Field Day will be held this year on September 4th and 5th and it is hoped to hold it centrally once again at Garbally Park in Ballinasloe. This year, open section stations will be located off site but still in the immediate vicinity of Ballinasloe. Four stations have confirmed their participation to date, but it's not too late to enter a station by contacting the Contest Manager, Noel EI2JC as soon as possible.

In conjunction with Field Day, experimenters are invited to attend a caravan and camping rally at the same venue. Anyone interested should contact Dave EI4BZ for more information. It is hoped that on Saturday night, weather permitting or not, the Shannon Basin Radio Club will put on a Barbeque.

ATV and CW QRP operation

On Saturday September 4th next Jim EI8IG will be setting up an ATV station to operate portable from a high point outside Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Weather permitting it is hoped to be on the air from 1.30 p.m. until about 8 or 9 p.m. depending on conditions etc.

From the same site Peadar EI2IF will be setting up a Portable CW QRP station and operating on the CW QRP Frequencies.

The site location should give good take off in all directions so it is hoped to work as many stations as possible on both ATV and HF CW.

Cork Radio Club

Cork Radio Club will hold it's Annual rally at the Blarney Park Hotel on September the 19th next. Doors open at 11 a.m. The Cork Rally, which has been running for the last 13 years without a break is one of the longest running rallies in EI.

Being one of the most popular events of the EI calendar year the rally attracts many amateurs from both north and south of the country along with new Traders every year.

Wireless LAN will be on display this year along with Cellcom`s first appearance. An Amateur Television demonstration from will be given by the pioneer himself Aedan O'Meara. There is a limited no of spaces available so if you would like to trade please contact Con on 086-1071312 or E-mail conmac@engineer.com as soon as possible.

Club members have been working on providing an internet link by wireless LAN to the club for meeting nights. It is intended that this link will provide access to DX information, call books, and other amateur sites, containing components including www.IRTS.ie etc. The setting up of the link gave club members opportunity to test and study microwave propagation and antennae. It is now up and working fine providing the club with another useful asset. Cork Radio Club would like to thank Aedan EI3EG for providing the service.

The Cork Radio Club now has a fully equipped ATV station. The ATV Repeater is now connected by wireless LAN to the QTH of EI3EG. This will enable control of the computer at the site, and also to input and alter data such as club notices and pictures of rallies and field days.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group are pleased to announce that a rally will take place in the McEniff Ard Rí Hotel, Waterford on Sunday the 17th of October 2004. Doors open at 11.00 a.m. and admission is 3 euro. Entry is free for children accompanied by an adult. Bar and food facilities will be available and there is ample car parking.

South East Communications from Waterford and Long Communications from Donegal have confirmed that they will be attending and other traders are to confirm in the coming weeks.

The hotel is offering a discount for those wishing to stay overnight. For enquiries about the rally, contact Mick EI5DCB on 051-873310.

The Waterford City 70cm repeater (EI2WRC) on RB11 is currently off air for maintenance. Check www.searg.com for the latest information.

A committee meeting will take place this coming Wednesday the 1st of September.

Items for inclusion in next weeks Radio News for next week should be forwarded to Mark EI7IS. News should be submitted via e-mail to news@irts.ie for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. Please note that items for the radio news should reach the editor no later than midday on Fridays.

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